

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 11746 091127Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 091110Z SEPT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8508

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAIGON 11746

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, VS

SUBJECT: GVN EMISSARIES VISITING INDONESIA

1. UPI STORY DATELINED SAIGON REPORTED TODAY THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAD ORDERED HIS AIDES TO OPEN SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMMUNISTS "IN AN ATTEMPT TO BRING PEACE TO VIETNAM BY THE END OF THE YEAR." STORY STATES THAT AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE BUI DIEM AND LT. GEN. DANG VAN QUANG, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT ON SECURITY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS, FLEW TO JAKARTA SUNDAY IN AN ATTEMPT TO "OPEN A NEW DIALOGUE" WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS THERE.

2. WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO REPEAT NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS STORY. HOWEVER, WE WERE TOLD SEPTEMBER 7 BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT AMBASSADOR BUI DIEM AND A HIGH RANKING GENERAL "SUCH AS LT. GEN. QUANG," WERE PROCEEDING VERY SOON TO JAKARTA FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO REGULARIZE INDONESIAN-GVN RELATIONS. OUR SOURCE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, LE QUANG GIANG, EXPLAINED THAT THE REASON FOR DISPATCHING A HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICER WAS HOPE THAT THE GVN, WHICH SO FAR HAS HAD NO LUCK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK, COULD PERSUADE PRESIDENT SUHARTO THROUGH HIS MILITARY COLLEAGUES OF THE DESIRABILITY OF AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS BETWEEN SAIGON AND JAKARTA. WE ASSUME THAT DIEM AND QUANG WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSING ICCS AFFAIRS WITH GOI.

3. THE SAIGON POST FOR SEPTEMBER 10 CARRIES DENIAL BY "WELL
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INFORMED SOURCES" OF THE UPI STORY. ACCORDING TO THE POST
GENERAL QUANG HAS LEFT FOR JAKARTA ON A PRESIDENTIAL MISSION TO
DISCUSS WITH THE GOI "PROBLEMS IN THE AREA AND THOSE INVOLVING
BOTH COUNTRIES." THE POST ALSO REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR BUI
DIEM IS IN JAKARTA ON A "ROUTINE MISSION" TO CONFER WITH GOI
ON "REGIONAL MATTERS IN GENERAL".

4. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY
JAKARTA MAY GAIN ON THE DIEM-QUANG MISSION.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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